

NEWS RELEASE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Commissioner Claire DeMatteis

Presented by **Jason P. Miller, Chief of Communications and Community Relations**

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Department of Correction Dedicates the *Steven R. Floyd, Sr. Training Academy* as it Graduates Newest Class of Correctional Officers

Dover, DE – 21 Correctional Officer cadets graduated on Friday, November 22 from the 234th Correctional Employee Initial Training (CEIT) Academy and took their oaths of office as Delaware’s newest law enforcement officers at a ceremony attended by Governor John Carney, Department of Correction leadership and staff, family and friends. Cadets completed an intensive 12-week program of classroom and hands-on instruction in multiple subject areas including inmate supervision, defensive tactics, emergency preparedness, weapons and chemical munitions, report writing, behavioral health training, CPR/Basic First Aid, and inter-personal communication skills.

During the program, officials held a ceremony renaming the Department of Correction Employee Development Center as the “Steven R. Floyd, Sr. Training Academy.” The Steven R. Floyd, Sr. Training Academy hosts the training academies for Correctional Officers, Probation and Parole Officers and specialized Department of Correction Units, along with the Department’s extensive training programs for existing staff.

“Thank you to each one of you for your commitment to provide this critically important public service, to pursue this career of service and sacrifice for the people of this state,” **said Governor John Carney.** “Today is a celebration of your hard work and of the incredible support you have received from family and friends along the way. It is also a celebration of the life of Lt. Steven Floyd as we dedicate this facility to him and to his honor. It is my sincere hope that the Steven R. Floyd Training Academy will serve not only as a reminder of his sacrifice, but also of his work ethic, his devotion to mission and his courage. As you take your oath of office today, and as future cadets do the same, I hope that the training and the leadership that you receive inspires you to embrace that same commitment and to look out for one another as you complete your mission.”

“Take in the high level of support you have here today and carry it with you through the good days and challenging days of your career,” **Commissioner Claire DeMatteis said.** “As you take the oath of office and receive your badge, know that we are proud of you as we welcome you to the DOC family. I also urge you to always remember these words of wisdom from two former commissioners, each with more than 30 years of experience, that the biggest threat to safety and security in our correctional facilities is complacency. Always stay alert. Do not cut corners. Stay alert, and stay safe.”

Friday’s graduation featured a traditional badge pinning and a ceremonial procession to the sound of the Delaware State Police Pipes and Drums.

Featured speaker, **retired Delaware Adjutant General Carol Timmons**, spoke to the graduates about the importance of integrity, respect and accountability in building cohesive and effective teams and in succeeding in their new mission as Correctional Officers. “As highly-trained professionals you know the rules and laws that you enforce. Do not be afraid to enforce those rules,” General Timmons said. “You must respect the offenders you manage, even if they don’t respect you and you must respect your teammates, no matter their position. Have courage in the face of difficult challenges and decisions. Your integrity will be tested. If you make a mistake, own it, speak up and fix it.”

Cadet Shawn Morse served as Class Speaker and Cadet Susan Payne was selected by academy instructional staff as Outstanding Cadet.

The instructional team for CEIT Class 234 consisted of Primary Instructor Randall Meding, Instructor Brian E. Lewis and Drill Instructors Latanya Smith and Tyler Wilton.

The graduates immediately began their new careers with the Delaware Department of Correction with a period of field training at their assigned correctional facilities.

Watch a video stream of Friday’s graduation ceremony online at www.facebook.com/decorrection.

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